

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

PA-04 PRS-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 NEA-10 AF-10 /132 R

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OSD/ISA - CAPT. SHAID

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORIY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJ: PETROLEUM CUTBACKS - PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: SINGAPORE 4410

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EXCHANGE AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
NOVEMBER 14 RE SINGAPORE PETROLEUM CUTBACKS.

QUOTE: Q. MAY I ASK ABOUT THE EFFECT ON THE UNITED STATES
OF THE SECOND-HAND OIL EMBARGOES BEING IMPOSED IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND IN SINGAPORE ON U.S. REQUIREMENTS IN THAT
AREA, PARTICULARLY FOR MILITARY FORCES?

A. WELL, SPENCE, ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT THESE FURTHER OIL
INHIBITIONS IS WE DO HAVE INFORMATION FROM OIL COMPANIES
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IN THE FAR EAST THAT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THEIR ARAB

SUPPLIERS OF CRUDE, THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING OUR NAVY REQUIREMENT OUT THERE. NOW, THE EXACT DETAILS AS TO HOW MUCH IS INVOLVED AND IN WHAT AREAS, THAT IS NOT SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH I HAVE THE DETAILS, AND I WOULD THINK YOU COULD GET MORE AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION ON THAT FROM DOD.

BUT I WOULD SAY ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS THAT SUCH INFORMATION AS I'VE HEARD THIS MORNING DOES NOT LEAD ME TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS A MAJOR FACTOR WHICH THE NAVY WILL BE UNABLE TO MANAGE.

Q. GEORGE, ARE WE REGISTERING ANY OFFICIAL PROTEST TO SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES ABOUT THIS?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF SUCH A THING, CHARLOTTE. THIS WAS AN ACTION TAKEN, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, BY THE OIL COMPANIES. JUST AS YESTERDAY YOU WERE ASKING ME QUESTIONS ABOUT ARAMCO AND SAUDI ARABIA, AGAIN WHEN YOU ASKED ME THIS QUESTION I LOOKED INTO IT. I FOUND THAT AT LEAST WE HERE IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE RECEIVED NO NOTIFICATION OF ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THAT STORY.

NOW, IT'S ALWAYS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT ARAMCO MAY BE HAVING ITS OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS IN VARIOUS WAYS. BUT, AS THE COMPANY ACTIVE THERE, THEY HAVE RATHER CONTINUOUS DISCUSSIONS. BUT WE HAVE NO NOTIFICATION ON THE SAUDI STORY, FOR EXAMPLE. END QUOTE.

2. DEFENSE REVIEWING QUESTIONS RAISED REF TEL. REQUEST EMBASSY REFRAIN FROM ANSWERING ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS PENDING FURTHER GUIDANCE, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED SHORTLY.
RUSH

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